Road Accidents in the Capital

5387. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that heavy vehicles drivers commit fatal accidents in the Capital particularly in the night when the traffic staff is generally off their duties;

(b) the number of fatal accidents involving heavy vehicles which took place during the last one year; and

(c) whether Government propose to enhance the minimum punishment for the erring drivers and if so, the details thereof and if not, what other penalty Government propose to impose on them so as to deter them from rash driving?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) and (b) Delhi Police have informed that in the year 2001, out of 278 number of fatal accidents involving Heavy Transport Vehicles, 113 number happened during night hours.

(c) Under Section 183, 184, 185, 192 and 192A of Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, adequate provisions for penalties/punishment for erring drivers committing various offences already exist.

Four Lane National Highways in Andhra Pradesh

5388. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of State Highways declared as National Highways, so far, in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether all of such Highways are four lane Highways;

(c) if not, which are the Highways without four lane; and

(d) by when, these Highways would be made four lane Highways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) There are 12 number of National Highways with a total length of 4092 km in Andhra Pradesh.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Four-laning of National Highway No. 5 (1016 km) along Golden Quadrilateral (GQ) and National Highway No. 7 (773 km) along North-South Corridor are proposed to be done by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) under National Highways Development Project (NHDP) and are targeted to be substantially completed by December, 2003 and December, 2007 respectively. Besides, four-laning of National Highway No. 9 for a length of 49.5 km is also being done by NHAI and is targeted to be completed by December, 2003. The balance length of National Highways will be considered for four-laning in phases depending on the volume of traffic, availability of funds and *inter-se* priority.

Connection of Coastline of Gujarat with NH

5389. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the States coastline are connected with National Highways;

(b) upto what extent the coastlines of Gujarat are connected with National Highways; and

(c) what are Government's Plan to provide National Highways all along the coast of Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There are 6 National Highways (NH No. 6, 8, 8A, 8D & 8E) aggregating to about 362 km connected with the Gujarat coastline.

(c) The declaration of any road as National Highway depends not only on the consideration that it runs along the coast but on several other considerations. The proposals for declaration of National Highways received from Gujarat will be considered alongwith similar proposals received from other States after the finalisation of Tenth Five Year Plan and availability of funds keeping in view the revised criteria for declaration of new National Highways, traffic needs and *inter-se* priority.